From our Yearly Meeting at *York*, the 10*th*. of the 5*th*. Month, 1690.

To all our Women Friends in their Monthly Meetings, in and throughout the County of York, *or elſe where, Greeting.*

DEar Friends and Siſters, we being met together in the fear of the Lord to wait upon him, for his Antient power; to order and guide us in his Work and Serviee; Relating to our Church affairs: He hath been pleaſed in his wonted Kindneſs, to break in upon Us, and hath opened the fountain of his Love unto us, and the ſtreams thereof hath freely run from Veſſel to Veſſel, praiſes be given to him for ever. And many living Teſtimonies by our Brethren and Siſters have been born amongſt us: Alſo, we have received many good and comfortable Epiſtles in writing from ſeverall Monthly meetings within our County, to our great ſatisfaction, of the care and concern of Friends in their reſpective places for the honour of God and proſperity of his Truth; for great and large hath been the love of God unto us and amongſt us, to our great encouragement, that we can do no leſs but Invite you our dear Friends and Siſters, who profeſs the Honourable Name of God and his bleſſed Truth, unto whom this is the Salutation of our endeared Love to you all, who have paſſed through many ſlanderous reproaches for your liveing obedience to it: Oh! Friends let it be as wieghty on your hearts and minds as ever it was, and let your care and circumſpection be as great as ever, (in every reſpect;) for the way is the ſame, the Lord is the ſame, and his Truth is the ſame; And all that abides in it finds as great neceſſity as ever to keep to the daily Croſs, that thereby they may be Crucified to the World, and the World unto them, that ſo they may ſtand clear and unſpotted or defiled by the evill of it, or the vain Cuſtoms, Faſhions and Traditions therein, and more particularly that you have a diligent care in reſpect to Truths honour, and the unity and Fellowſhip with thoſe many wholſome Exhortations and Admonitions which from time to time have been

recommended to you and us, by our Brethren and Sisters, whose Labours and Exercise is in the Word and Doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ: So that in order thereto, we who are of the Female Sex, answer our places; and ye that are Mothers of Children, and have the Ordering and Governing of them (it may be more then Fathers, because they may be more absent) we do advise and exhort you all, to be very dilligent to answer your places to your Children in a Holy care and watchfullness over them; and that you Restrain them while they are young, from all fooliſh and unnecessary things; Either in Apparell which lyes more particularly upon Mothers to put a stop to, as also the new *changable* unnecessary Fashons of high dressed Heads, which is so extreamely run into by the People of the World, and too many professing truth, a Fashon not becoming modesty, much less Women professing Godlyness; Therefore we desire that you Restrain your Children from the practise of it; as also from needless Dresses about your Meat, which Youth in our day is too prone unto in some places: These with any other that may be unnecessary, we lay it as a concern upon you elder Women. That as the Holy Women in Antient times ye may be good patterns, and train up the Young-ones in the days of their Youth, in the way which they should walk: And then if they come to maturity of Years, and understanding, they will not forget, but as truth is Planted in them, and they growing in it, will bless God on your behalf: That you restrained them from the Vanities of this World, and will be a blessing unto you in your Old age, even as faithfull Plants about your Tables, and you may be as Mothers in *Israel*; Nursing up the Young Women in that which is good, that so when you grow in Years they may be willing and fit to bear part with you, not only in your outward concerns and business, but also in relation to truth and the concerns of it, in your Monthly and Womens meetings, that they may be in readiness to put to their Shoulders to bear, and their Hands to Labour in their Day and time, and not to bring them up as strangers and unaquainted with the way of truth, as if you never intended them to be of the number amongst you, and they willing to be unconcerned and at liberty, not coming

into

into the ſence of the ſervice, and great neceſſity there is of it, by your not anſwering your places and puting them on therein: ſuch in proceſs of time may be ready to judg others and ſay, that they know no need of Womens meetings, nor they know no ſervice in them; yea it may be (which would be cauſe of ſadneſs) the Children of ſuch Parents as have borne a Living Teſtimony for the ſame: And therefore we do adviſe and warn all ſuch in the fear of the Lord God: Keep low out of all exaltedneſs of mind, and do not think becauſe ye are Children of believing Parents, you are well enough; but come learn to tread in the Path of true ſelf denial, and to bear the Yoak in the dayes of your Youth, that ſo it may become natural to you to follow the footſteps of your faithfull Parents, and in true ſubjection to the Elders, haveing them in eſtimation as worthy of double Honour for their Faithfulneſs to the Truth, and as thoſe that have borne the burthen and heat of the day, and yet are willing to labour with you, that have come in as at the Eleventh hour; that ſo you may receive your Peny, and reap of the fruits of their Labours, and walk in the path which they have troden out with much hardſhip, difficulty and great excerciſe, that ſo you may know your places and ſervice in this latter time of the day, which according to its ſeaſon the Lord calls for, for there is ſtill work to be done in his Vineyard, tho it be planted and hedged about in a good meaſure; yet there muſt be a diligent care that the Hedg be not broken down and that the little Foxes or the wild Boars, do not get in to ſpoile or lay waſte the Lords Vinyard, and alſo that care be taken to pluck up any noyſom Weeds, which may be ſeen to ſpring up again that may hinder the grouth of the Righteous Plant of Renown, ſo dear Friends and Siſters, both Old and Young, it is our advice unto you, be willing to labour; And be diligent in keeping your Womens Meetings, and where any neglect hath been, that for the time to come you may be more diligent, and tho ſome that are of a quareling and ſeperating ſpirit, and cannot abide to come under reproof or judgment of the Men or Womens Meetings, and is ready to ſay there is no buſineſs nor need for Women to be concerned in the Church: We ſay, that Women ought to have a care, and concern as well as the Men, being

members

members of the Church; and every Member hath its Office in the Body, he who promised to power out his Spirit on Daughters as on Sons: Surely hath concerned us in the Church, yea we have a Garden to weed, a House to keep clean, inward as well as outward, which is a work necessary to be done, in this latter time or day, which calls for Fruits to be brought forth to the praise of him who hath bestowed much Labour on us, and given us many fruitfull Seasons: So recommending you dear Sisters unto the Lord, and the guidance of his good Spirit in all your concerns, Referring you for a further account of the good Service of this Meeting, to such Friends as were here present, where the Lords Love and goodness was plentifully manifested amongst us, Blessed be his glorious Name, and power for Ever, and Ever, *Amen.*

Signed on the Behalf of the Meeting.

Deborah Winn.
Sarah English.
Sarah Fletcher.
Judith Boulbie.
Katherin Winn.
Frances Taylor.
Mary White.
Margaret Breckon.